

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are now pending in the present application. The allowability of claims 4-8, 14 and 15 is gratefully acknowledged. Reconsideration of the remaining claims is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 1, 12, 13, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)(2) as being anticipated by Allen, U.S. Patent No. 6,913,322. Claim 1, as amended, defines a wheel cover assembly that comprises, among other things, a wheel cladding assembly comprising a body member and at least one elongated tubularly-shaped extension having a distal portion extending away from an inner surface of the body member, and at least one tubularly-shaped insulating sleeve including an edge portion, wherein the edge portion is adapted to engage a vehicle wheel, thereby assembling the wheel cover assembly with a vehicle wheel, the at least one extension is adapted to be completely concealed when the wheel cover assembly is assembled with the vehicle wheel, and wherein the sleeve is adapted to thermally insulate the wheel clad assembly from the vehicle wheel. Allen does not disclose such a wheel cover assembly and, therefore, does not anticipate the same.

Accordingly, claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Claims 2-18 are dependent from claim 1 which is in condition for allowance, as noted above, and are therefore also in condition for allowance.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 19-24, 26-31 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dubost, U.S. Patent No. 5,249,845 in view of Allen. Applicant notes that Allen, U.S. Patent No. 6,913,322 and the present application are commonly assigned, and were commonly assigned or under an obligation to assign at the time of invention, to Lacks Enterprises, Inc. (See reel/frame 011065/0149 and 014899/0152, respectively.) Further, no publication was made of the Allen '322 patent or any related application, either in the United States or in a foreign country, prior to filing

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of the present application. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejections based on Allen '322.

As a result, independent claim 19 is in condition for allowance. Claims 20-33 are dependent from claim 19 which is in condition for allowance, as noted above, and are therefore also in condition for allowance.

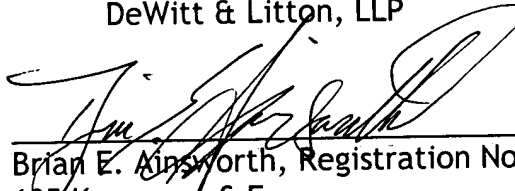
Other rejections were made of several of the dependent claims within the application, however, these rejections are believed to be moot in view of the amendments and arguments above.

Accordingly, claims 1-33 are now believed to be in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowability is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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